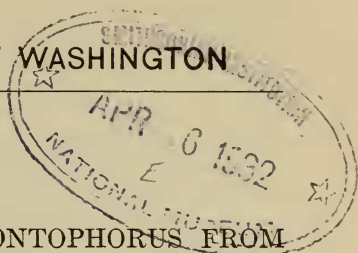


PROCEEDINGS
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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW ODONTOPHORUS FROM
COSTA RICA.

BY HARRY C. OBERHOLSER.

Some specimens of a Central American partridge, belonging to the genus *Odontophorus*, and now in the collection of Mr. Henry O. Havemeyer, of Mahwah, New Jersey, represent apparently an undescribed species. They were sent by Mr. Havemeyer to the writer for the purposes of examination and identification, and when it became evident that they represented an undescribed form, Mr. Havemeyer courteously suggested that the writer publish a description of this new species. These birds were obtained by the well-known collector, Mr. Austin Smith, of San José, Costa Rica, and we take pleasure in dedicating this beautiful bird to him, in recognition of his services to ornithology. It may, therefore, be called

Odontophorus smithianus, sp. nov.

Specific characters.—Similar to *Odontophorus leucolaemus*, but entire pileum black, not brown; hind neck black mixed with brown; upper parts, including the upper surface of the wings, darker, more sooty; chin and throat black, or with but a very few flecks of white, mostly from exposed feather bases; black of breast more extended, reaching back to the center of the abdomen; all of the remainder of the posterior lower parts darker, more sooty (less rufescent), with lower tail-coverts and under surface of the tail more blackish.

Description.—Type, adult male, No. 5014, collection of Henry O. Havemeyer; San Joaquin de Dota (Pacific water-shed), altitude 4000 feet, March 1, 1931; Austin Smith. Forehead, crown, occiput, sides of head, chin, throat, jugulum, breast, and middle of abdomen, black, the last mentioned somewhat mixed with fuscous, and middle of chin and throat with a few irregular flecks of white, these chiefly spots on the basal or median portions of the feathers showing through the black of the rest of the feathers; upper parts of hind neck black mixed with clove brown; lower hind

neck, sides of neck, and back, between prout's brown and mummy brown, the longitudinal centers of the feathers broadly rather dull buffy brown, imparting a streaked appearance, all the feathers finely vermiculated with blackish, and the middle of the back with a few large, irregular spots of black; rump between cinnamon brown and dresden brown, shading gradually to bay with a tinge of mars brown on the upper tail-coverts, all the feathers finely vermiculated with blackish; tail-feathers fuscous black, finely vermiculated with the brown of the upper tail-coverts, and irregularly and narrowly barred with russet; wing-quills fuscous, the outer edges of the inner primaries slightly mottled with tawny and ochraceous, the outer webs of the secondaries narrowly and irregularly barred with the same and with also a few small, irregular, marginal spots of black, and the tertials terminally on both webs mottled and vermiculated with tawny, russet, and ochraceous, having also a few black spots, and a broad subterminal bar or spot of velvety black, succeeded by a broad apical bar of partly tawny, partly ochraceous tawny; scapulars like the back, with rather large spots or broad bars of velvety black, most of these bordered by a narrow bar of russet, tawny, or ochraceous; superior wing-coverts similar to the sides of the neck, but slightly more rufescent, and more coarsely vermiculated, many of the greater and median series with small apical spots of buffy or ochraceous; middle of abdomen, crissum, and thighs, fuscous black finely barred and vermiculated with russet; sides of body between cinnamon brown and tawny, finely vermiculated with fuscous black; flanks russet, similarly, but more coarsely, vermiculated, and with terminal bars of tawny; lining of wing fuscous, the shorter under wing-coverts somewhat mottled with russet; "bill black; tarsi dark plumbeous; irides dark brown."

Measurements.—*Two males*: wing, 123.0–127.5 (average, 125.3) mm.; tail, 55.0–55.5 (55.3); exposed culmen, 18; tarsus, 45.5–48.0 (46.8); middle toe without claw, 35.5–37.0 (36.3). *Two females*: wing, 124.5–129.5 (average, 127) mm.; tail, 52.0–59.0 (55.5); exposed culmen, 18–18.8 (18.4); tarsus, 46.5–47.0 (46.8); middle toe without claw, 35.5–38.0 (36.8).

Remarks.—Of this interesting and apparently very distinct new species, four specimens, two males and two females, were collected by Mr. Smith, all from San Joaquin de Dota at altitudes of 4000 or 5000 feet, between February 25 and March 1, 1931, inclusive. They are very uniform in appearance, the chief individual variation consisting of paler lower parts of one female taken on February 25. A female obtained on the same date almost entirely lacks the white on the bases of the feathers of the throat. There seems to be no difference between the sexes except the slightly larger size of the female. The colors of the soft parts are identical in all the specimens collected, both male and female.

Although so different in color from *Odontophorus leucolaemus* as to be distinguishable at a glance, it does not materially differ in measurements, as the following averages of specimens of *Odontophorus leucolaemus* show. *Three males*: wing, 124.7; tail, 53.0; exposed culmen, 17.6; tarsus, 44.8; middle toe without claw, 36.2. *Three females*: wing, 125.2; tail, 47.2; exposed culmen, 17.9; tarsus, 45.3; middle toe without claw, 34.3.

This new bird apparently is not referable to any described species, and is one of the most distinct forms of the genus, since only a few species of *Odontophorus* have the head black. Notwithstanding this, it seems to be, of all the species examined in the present connection, most nearly allied to *Odontophorus leucolaemus*.

Mr. Smith reports that he found this species on steep, heavily wooded hill slopes above the settlement at San Joaquin de Dota, from 4000 to 5000 feet. A number of individuals were seen, but as is the case with other Central American members of this genus, they were very elusive, and he was unable to obtain more than four specimens. The birds were noisy early in the morning during March and April.